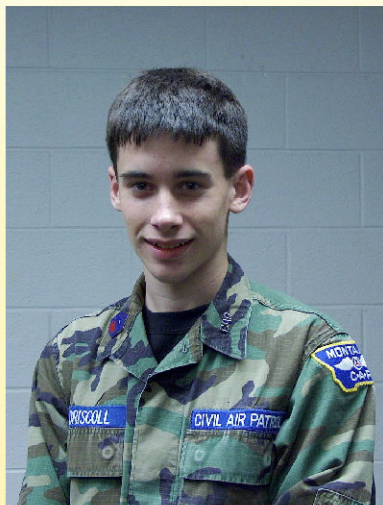




Montana Wing Observer

MISSOULA CADET SOLOS

MISSOULA C/CMsgt David Driscoll of Missoula Composite Squadron soloed late in the afternoon of November 10. His solo flight was in N93239, a 1981 Cessna 152. C/CMsgt Driscoll is a student of Clint Cotton of Minuteman Aviation. He flew out of Missoula Airport just before dark; the skies were clear, the winds calm. "It couldn't have been better conditions!" he said. "I had an awesome time up there, a bit nervous, but it was awesome." The Cadet did three touch-and-goes; he remarked that he was particularly pleased with his third landing. C/CMsgt Driscoll has been a Civil Air Patrol member for over five years. He turned 16, the minimum age to solo in a powered aircraft, earlier this month.



Cadet CMSgt David Driscoll

FLATHEAD COMPOSITE SQUADRON CADETS COMPLETE RIFLERY COURSE

KALISPELL Six Flathead Composite Squadron Cadets have completed a six-hour basic rifle training course. C/AB Tim Siloti, C/Amn Ian Cantrell, C/CMsgt Caleb Sackett, C/2dLt Chris Brim, C/TSgt Levi Tressel, and C/Maj Makeys Rain fulfilled National Rifle Association course requirements Nov. 5 when, using .22 caliber rifles, the six Cadets qualified by making 5 out of 10 shots within a 5-inch area. The visit to the rifle firing range was the final requirement in the course, which began on Oct. 20.

Before and after making their shots, the students took apart and cleaned the rifles. Senior Member Chris Zarcone, who taught the course, is an NRA Certified rifle instructor. He says, "The safest way to handle a firearm is to know how it works." He believes that, since firearms are a part of Montana life, young people will be safer if they learn about and respect them.

The rifle range session was preceeded by classroom training, during which the students learned to properly handle the weapons. Most of the Cadets attained perfect scores on the written test, for which they received NRA patches for non-uniform wear.

Senior Member Zarcone reports that thanks to assistance at the firing range by Maj. Chuck Statum and Lts. Dave and Theresa Brim, the Cadets had a fun and safe time. It was a great team effort, he said. From beginning to end, all the Squadron Seniors helped with details and made sure the event went smoothly. Following the qualifying shots, during a range-side ceremony, SM Zarcone presented the graduating Cadets with completion certificates.



Cadet Airman Ian Cantrell, one of six Cadets who recently completed Basic Rifle Training, poses with an M16 rifle during the Malmstrom Air Force Base Cadet Tour this past summer.



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FOR THESE FAMILIES, CIVIL AIR PATROL IS A FAMILY AFFAIR



For Beartooth Composite Squadron Cadets Carl and (above) and Philip (right) Schmidt, CAP is a family activity.

THE SCHMIDTS OF BILLINGS



All four members of the Schmidt family are card-carrying Civil Air Patrol members. The family is active in Beartooth Composite Squadron in Billings. Son Carl led the way in 2002 at age 14. His father, Peter, and brother, Philip, followed suit in 2004. This July, mother Margaret "Maggie" made the family transition to Civil Air Patrol complete. With his two-year head start, Carl has built an impressive record of attendance at CAP encampments and Special Activities, and fifteen-year-old Philip is progressing in the Cadet Program as well. The brothers' parents played significant behind-the-scenes roles even before becoming members themselves. "We wanted to support our sons in Civil Air Patrol," Senior Member Pete Schmidt said of their decision to join CAP. "It's a family activity."

Although Mitchell Award winner and Cadet Commander Chris Brim can count himself first this time around, having joined CAP in 2002, he and brother Thomas, who joined in 2003, are second-generation CAP members. Also in 2003, the boys' father, 1st Lt. Dave Brim, now Flathead Composite Squadron commander, joined CAP, but for him it was the second time around. In his three years as a Cadet during his Louisiana boyhood, he, too, earned the coveted Mitchell award. 1st Lt. Theresa Brim joined her husband and sons in Civil Air Patrol two years ago. She currently serves Flathead Composite Squadron as Finance Officer and Aerospace Education Officer and has a Technician Rating in Administration. Discussing her family's involvement in Civil Air Patrol, 1st Lt. Brim admitted that it takes a lot of effort, but commented that getting rid of television recently had opened up a lot of family time. "And," she added with a smile, "we know where our kids are!"

THE BRIMS OF KALISPELL



Brothers Chris (above) and Thomas (left) Brim of Flathead Composite Squadron are part of an all-CAP family.



15 NOVEMBER 19

This Saturday, November 19, is designated as National Family Volunteer Day. Celebrated each November on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, National Family Volunteer Day is designed to promote community service and to encourage families to volunteer together. According to the Points of Light Foundation and the Volunteer Center National Network, "Volunteering as a family provides quality time, strengthens communication, and provides opportunities for family members to be role models, while making significant contributions to their communities. Family volunteering creates life-long volunteers and a legacy of volunteering for the next generation to carry into the future!" Several Montana families embody these principles with multiple Civil Air Patrol members in the family, and at least two of those families can claim 100% participation in Civil Air Patrol.